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...of ...ecorg, to Major M.A.G. Evans-Gordon, Secretary to ... Resident an Mysore.

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I write to thank you for your letter of the 26th Septem... 1925, enclosing a copy of the report of Rao Bahadur M. Vinayak Rao, Assistant Superintendent, Geological Survey of India. I regret to ... to observe that after the inordinately long time which this offic... has taken both for the investigation of the case as well as for t... drafting of his final report, his performance is so scrappy and disappointing from the scientific aspect of the case in which His Highness' Government were mainly interested. The major portion o... report deals with the history of the operations with which ... Highness' Government are perfectly familiar, and it was quite superfluous to have repeated it. What was expected from this independent expert was a thorough investigation of the operations so far conducted and the expression of an unbiassed opinion setting at rest any doubts either way, which have been entertained. On the other hand, I am constrained to observe that many portions of the report beyond the province of this officer's duty, making insulting refere... and offering suggestions and advice to His Highness' Government in matters of investigation which are totally uncalled for and out of place in an expert report, which, if necessary, may have at any ti... to be placed before the public. I must strongly take exception t... the very objectionable tone which the officer has adopted in drafti... his report, arrogating to himself the task of criticising what he thinks was the procedure adopted by His Highness' Government in conducting the operations. I regret, therefore, to have to return the report as objectionable in tone and disappointing in investigation, expression of opinion, and I request that the officer may be directed to officially withdraw it and redraft the report embodying only scientific opinions and not objectionable and irrelevant references which are not only unasked for but totally outside the province of his special duty. I cannot allow such a report to go on the records of this State.

Report on the alleged occurrence of Coal at Kamasamudram, Mysore, by Rao Bahadur M. Vinayak Rao, Assistant Superintendent, Geological Survey of India.

Kamasamudram Coal.

The possibility of finding coal near Kamasamudram, a railway station on the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway on the S.E. border of the Mysore State appears to have suggested itself to Mr. Schomburg who describes himself as a practical miner and has, according to his statement, a varied experience in mining extending from Germany and the Riviera to South America and Travancore. In course of time he drifted on to Mysore in search of chromite for which he holds some concessions. While searching for Chromite near Kamasamudram he found what he calls his indications of coal - while are dykes and hornblende schists. This discovery was reported to the Dewan of Mysore who without consulting the Mysore geological department started negotiations with Mr. Schomburg. Every facility was given to the latter. A calyx drill was placed at his disposal and he was financed by the Mysore Government. The greatest secrecy was maintained. Nobody was allowed to go near the scene of operations - a police guard keeping watch day and night. Mr. Schomburg put a borehole to a depth of about 218 feet when it met with an obstruction which according to Mr. Schomburg could not be cleared. He therefore started anotner bore-hole near the first which went down to a depth of 291 feet and then got stuck. When it is remembered that Mr. Schomburg had promised to get coal at a depth of 350 feet it need not occasion any surprise that there were 2 obstructions in the boreholes before reaching that depth. Below a depth of about 220 feet a dyke was met with. Mr. Schomburg sent three alleged samples of these to the Indian Institute of Science - one of these contained 70% carbon and volatile matter. On this being communicated to the Mysore Government hopes ran high and the Dewan was persuaded to get one of the mining companies to put down a shaft to get at the coal. The shaft was taken down to a depth of about 82 feet when it was abandoned. I interviewed Mr. H.M.A. Cooke, O.B.E., Superintendent of the Ooregaum Gold Mining Company who was in charge of the shaft and he says that he was merely asked to sink a shaft which

pinion was not asked about the possibility of finding

coal. So no blame attaches to the Gold Mining Company in this connection. Subsequently, the Mysore Government got the services of Mr. Hance, a mining Engineer of Messrs. Martin and Company, Calcutta, who reported adversely on the project.

The supposed coal from Kamasamudram a sample of which has been kindly supplied by the Dewan of Mysore gave the following results in the Geological Survey Laboratory.

Moisture	1.85
Volatile matter	41.90
Fixed carbon	30.76
Ash	25.49
	100.00

Cakes strongly - ash dark brown.

It will be shown later on that this coal or coaly shale could not have been obtained from the boreholes or the shaft near Kamasamudram. One has to come to the reluctant conclusion that the borehole has been "salted". The man who is responsible for this should be prosecuted in a court of law. At the same time as it may not be easy to persuade a court of law that a fraud has been perpetrated it would be as well to cancel his leases and prevent him from getting any in the future.

The Mysore Government would be well advised if they consult their own geological department before embarking on similar enterprises. The Mysore Geological Department has a splendid record having had at its head eminent geologists like the late Mr. Bruce Foote, Dr. J.W. Evans, the President of the Geological Society, and Mr. Smeeth. The mapping has been done in a thorough manner by Mr. Wetherell, the late Mr. Slater, Mr. Joya Ram and last but not least Mr. Sampat Iyengar.

Geology.

The Mysore Plateau consists of Archaean gneisses and schists in which are included the Dharwar system, the chief amiferous rocks of South India. From the subjoined table it will be seen that it formed one of the oldest land surfaces on the earth. The coal-bearing formations of India are separated from the Archaeans by two

distinct groups - neither of which has been found in Mysore.

The formations are:- (after Sir Thomas Holland).

		Fresh-Water Formations.	Approximate European and American equivalents.	
FOSSILIFEROUS	ARYAN Group. DRAVIDIAN Group.	Recent Alluvium; Porbandar Sandstone; Desert sand	Recent	Post Tertiary
		Older alluvium of Narbada & Godavari.	Pleistocene	
		Upper Siwaliks; Irrawaddy series	Pliocene	
		Lower Manchhar	Miocene	
		Kasauli	Oligocene	
		Deccan Trap	Eocene	
		Lameta Series	Cretaceous	
		Jabbalpore Series / Rajmahal & Mahadeva Series (Gondwana System.)	Jurassic	
			Triassic	
		Panchet Series / Damuda Series / Talcher boulder-bed (Gondwana System.)	Permian	
		.. .. ..	Carboniferous	
		Fresh water formations unknown between the base of the Gondwanas and the uppermost Vindhyans.	Devonian / Silurian / Cambrian	
UNFOSSILIFEROUS	Purana Group.	Vindhyans, Kurnools, Upper Cuddapahs, Kaladgis, Pakhals, Bhimas	Keweenawan	
		Lower Cuddapahs, Gwaliors Bijawars and Penganga Series	Animikie	
		----------Great Eparchaean Interval----------		
	Archaean Group.	Dharwarian	Huronian	
		Eruptive Gneisses & Granites Charnockites & Norites of S. India; Anorthosites of Bengal	Laurentian	
		Schistose Gneisses, often with intruding Pegmatites like those of mica mining areas	Keewatin	
		Oldest gneisses	Coutchiching	

CAINOZOIC — MESOZOIC — PALAEOZOIC — ALGONKIAN — ARCHAEAN.

"The coal-seams of India occur in deposits younger than those in which the principal coal-fields of Europe are found. With one or two unimportant exceptions the peninsular fields are confined to the Great Gondwana (Permo-Triassic) System of Indian Geologists" - (Ball and Simpson "The coal-fields of India, Memoirs, Geological Survey of India Volume XL1, p.1").

This system as will be seen from the foregoing table is very

much younger than the rocks of Mysore. No trace of this coal-bearing-system or of the two intervening groups of rocks has ever been found in any part of Mysore. There is thus no chance of ever finding coal in Mysore.

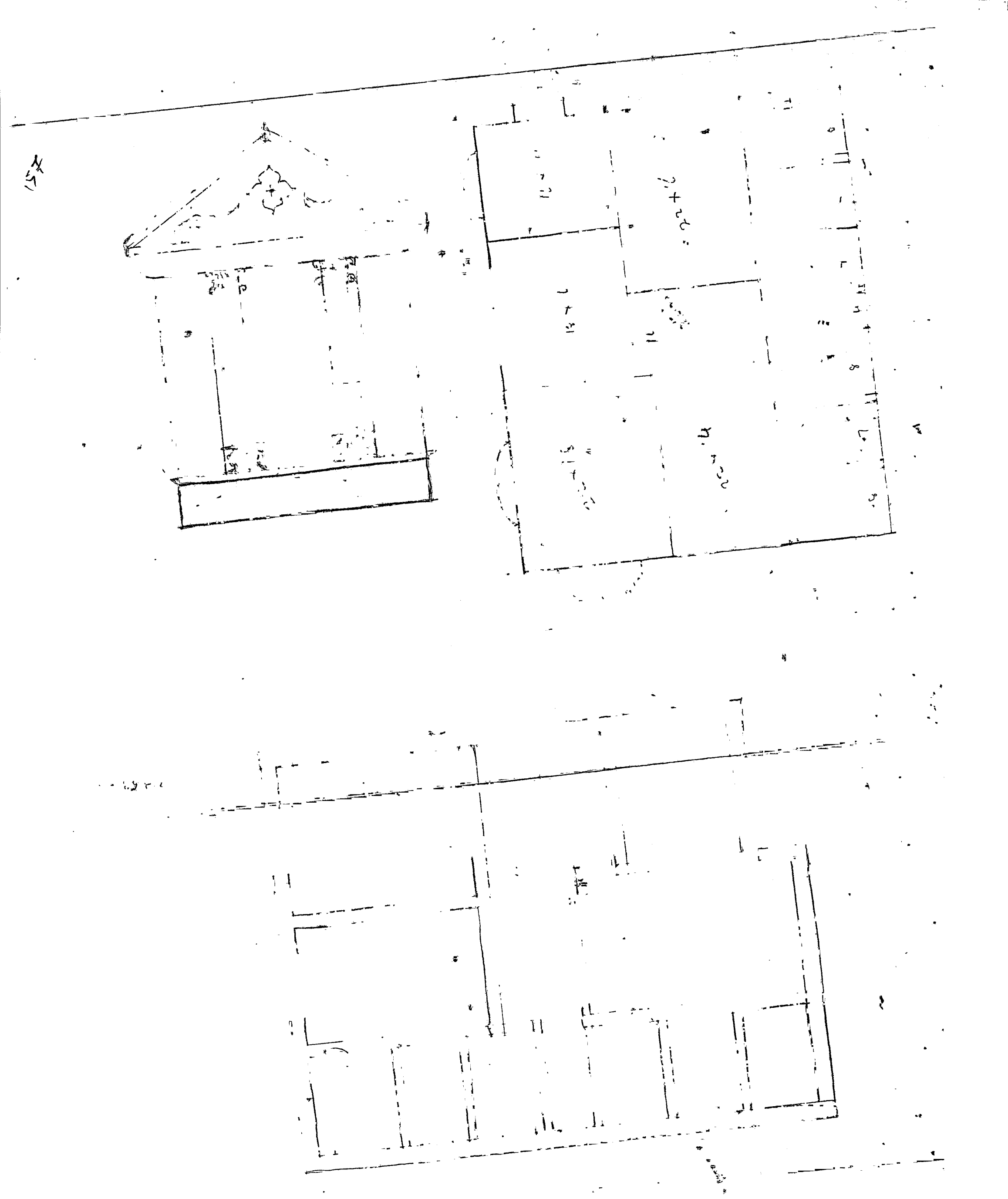
** " The fact that the rocks of Mysore are confined to the Archaean and that the development of land plants and of the Indian coal measures took place many millions of years later explains why there is no hope of finding in Mysore those supplies of coal which are so badly needed for the industrial development of her mineral resources."

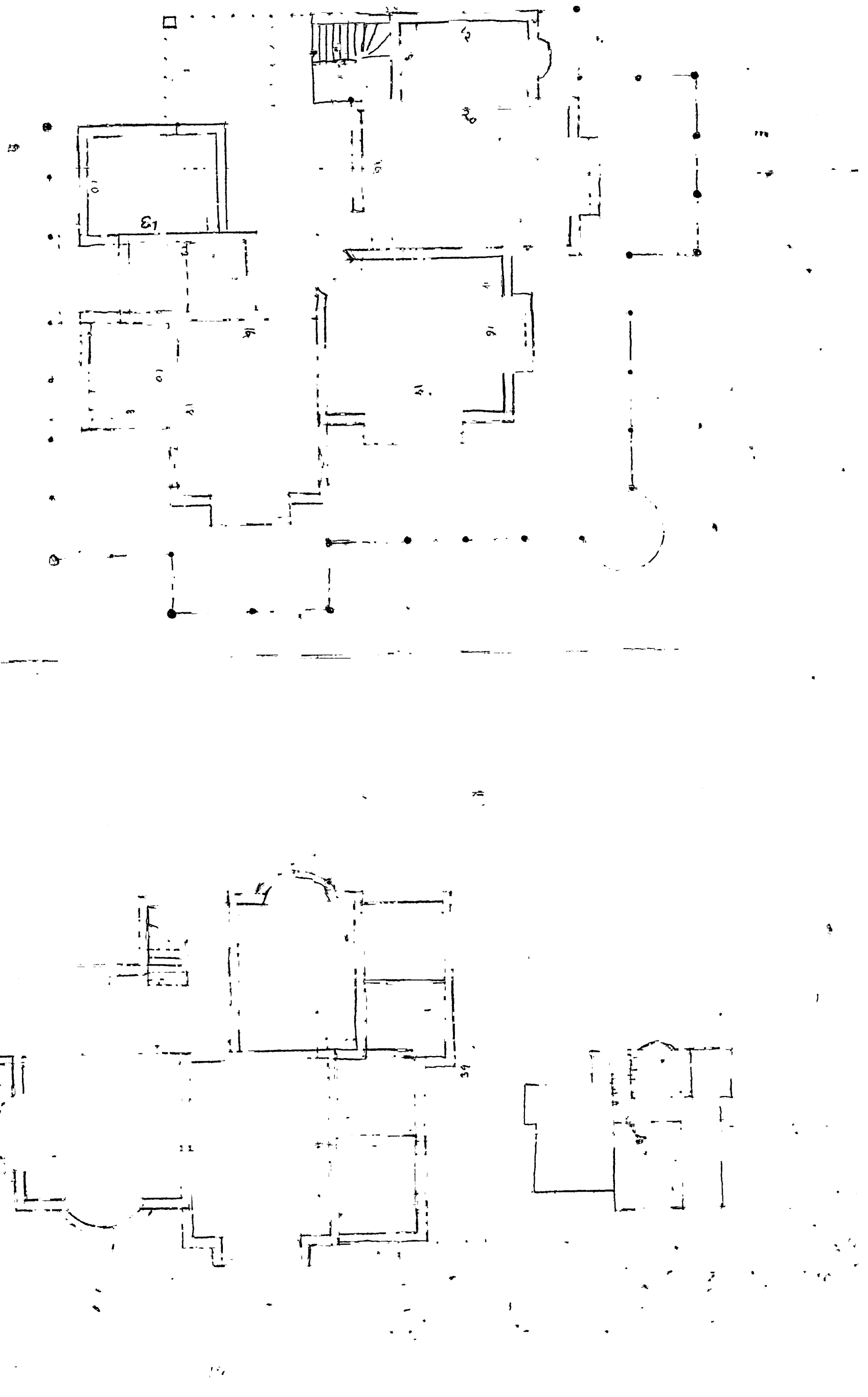
One of the reasons adduced in support of the possible existence of coal in Kolar is the fact that M.F. Lowelle, the pioneer of the Modern Gold Mining Industry in Mysore had applied for a license to prospect for coal. It is possible that he had honestly mistaken the Dharwar schists for the coal-bearing schists or it might be an act of finesse on his part as J.M. Maclaren suggests (J.M. Maclaren: "Gold" p. 150).

Representative samples ~~of~~ from Mr. Schomburg's collection of coal were examined microscopically. They are olivine basalts some with tachylitic edges and with plagioclase felspar with a few ~~xkxtx~~ skeleton crystals of magnetite. The granites and gneisses are of the usual type containing 2 felspars and with muscovite or biotite.

** (W.F. Smeeth - outline of the Geological History of Mysore, p.2.)

True Copy.
(Sgd.) for Superintendent,
Department of Industries and Labour

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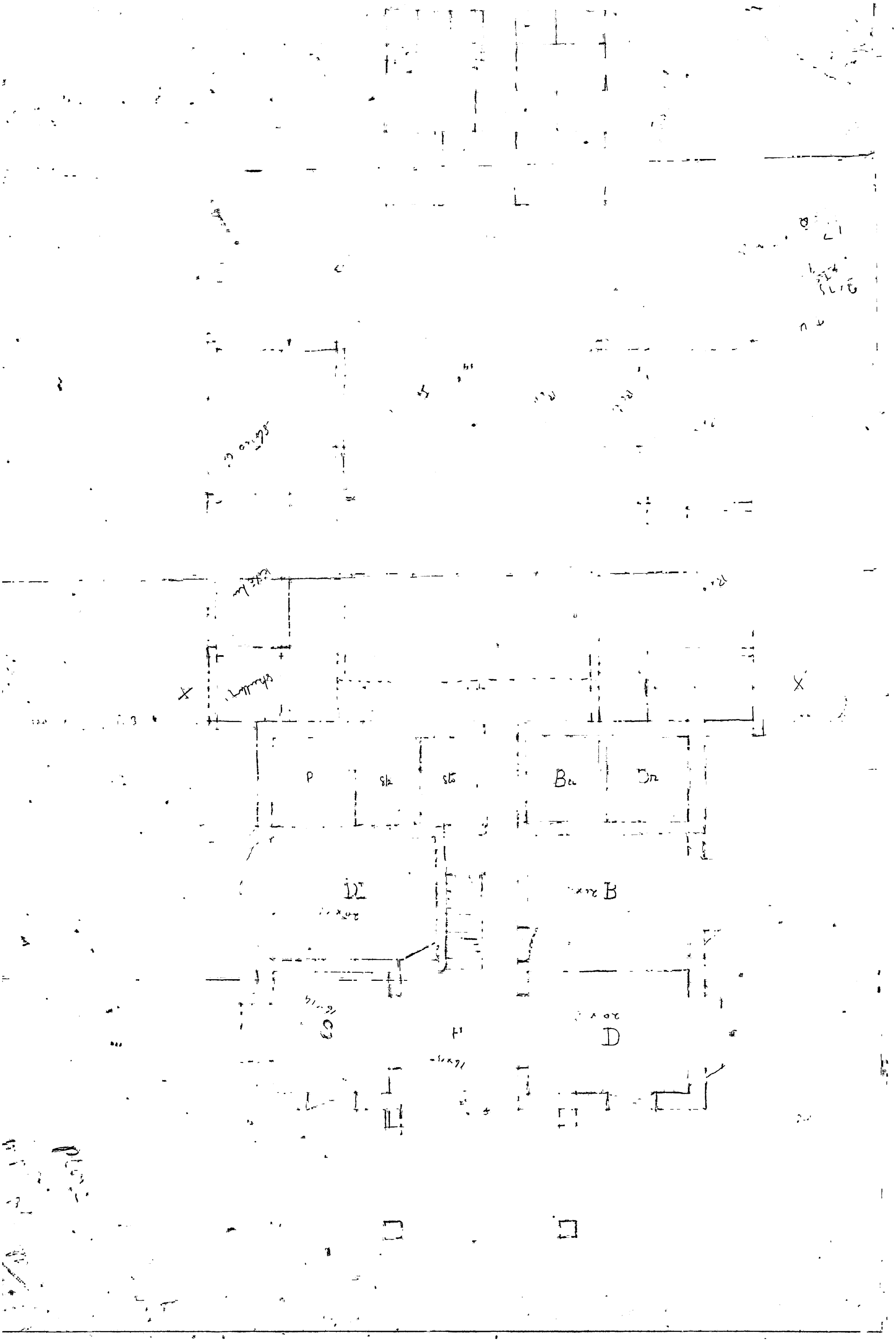
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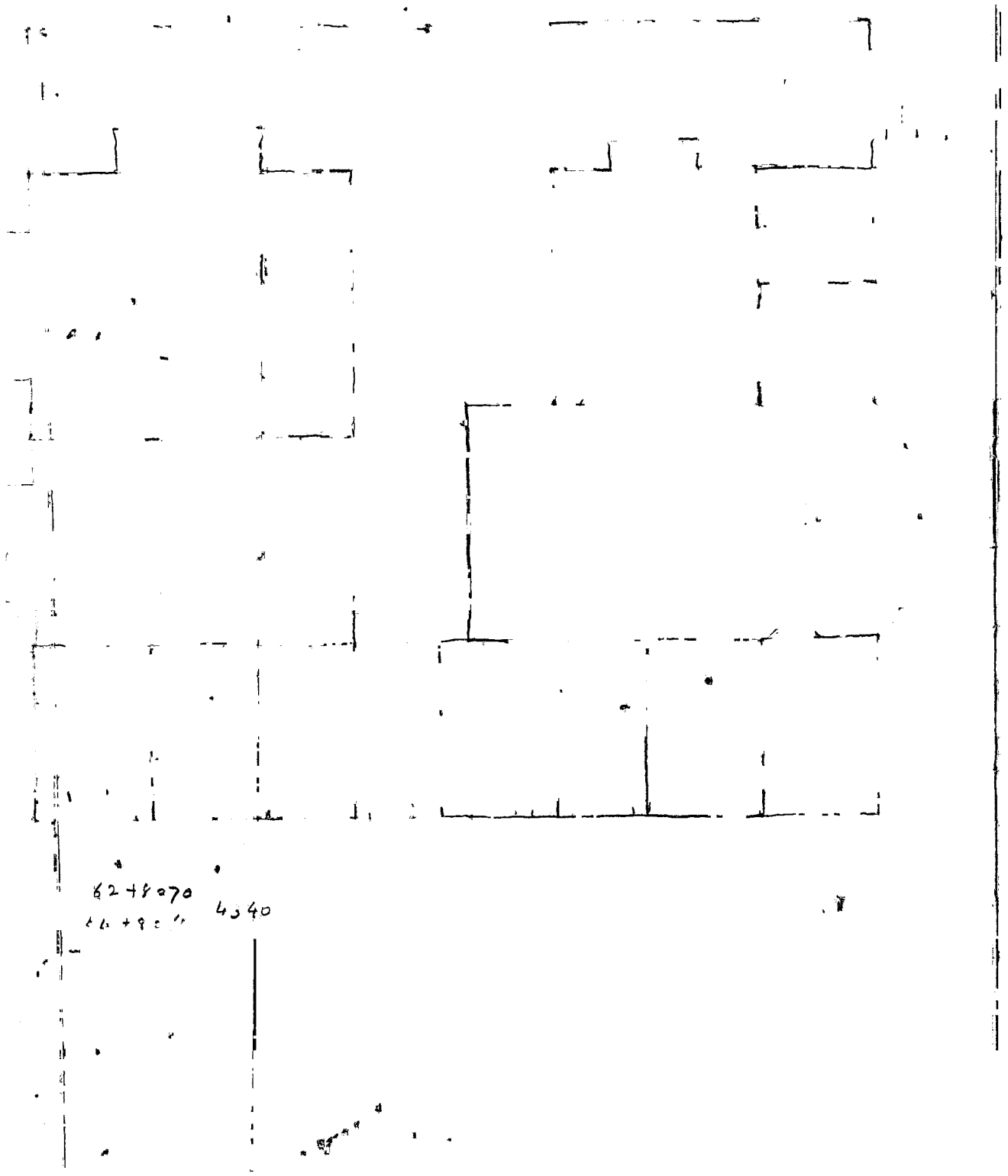
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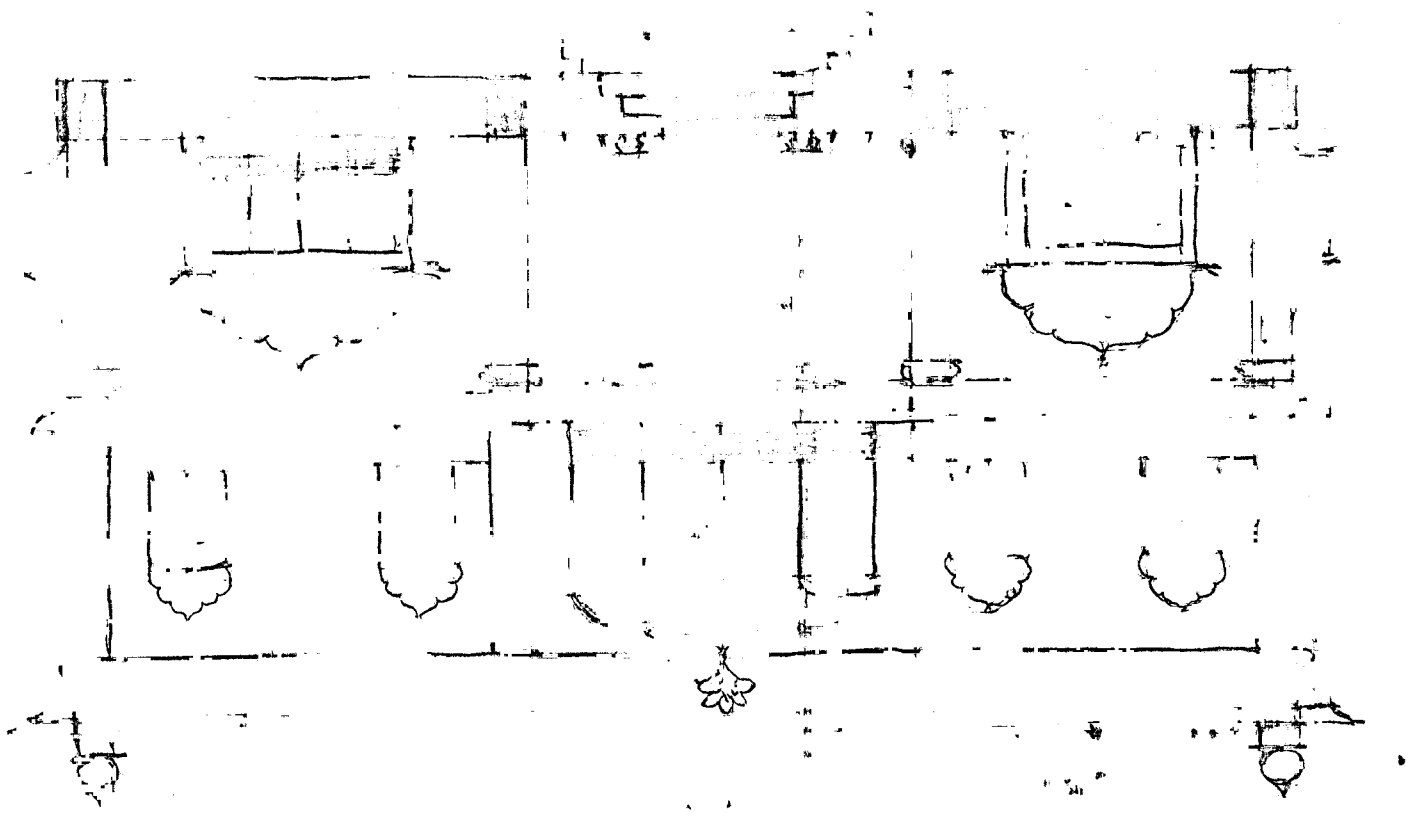

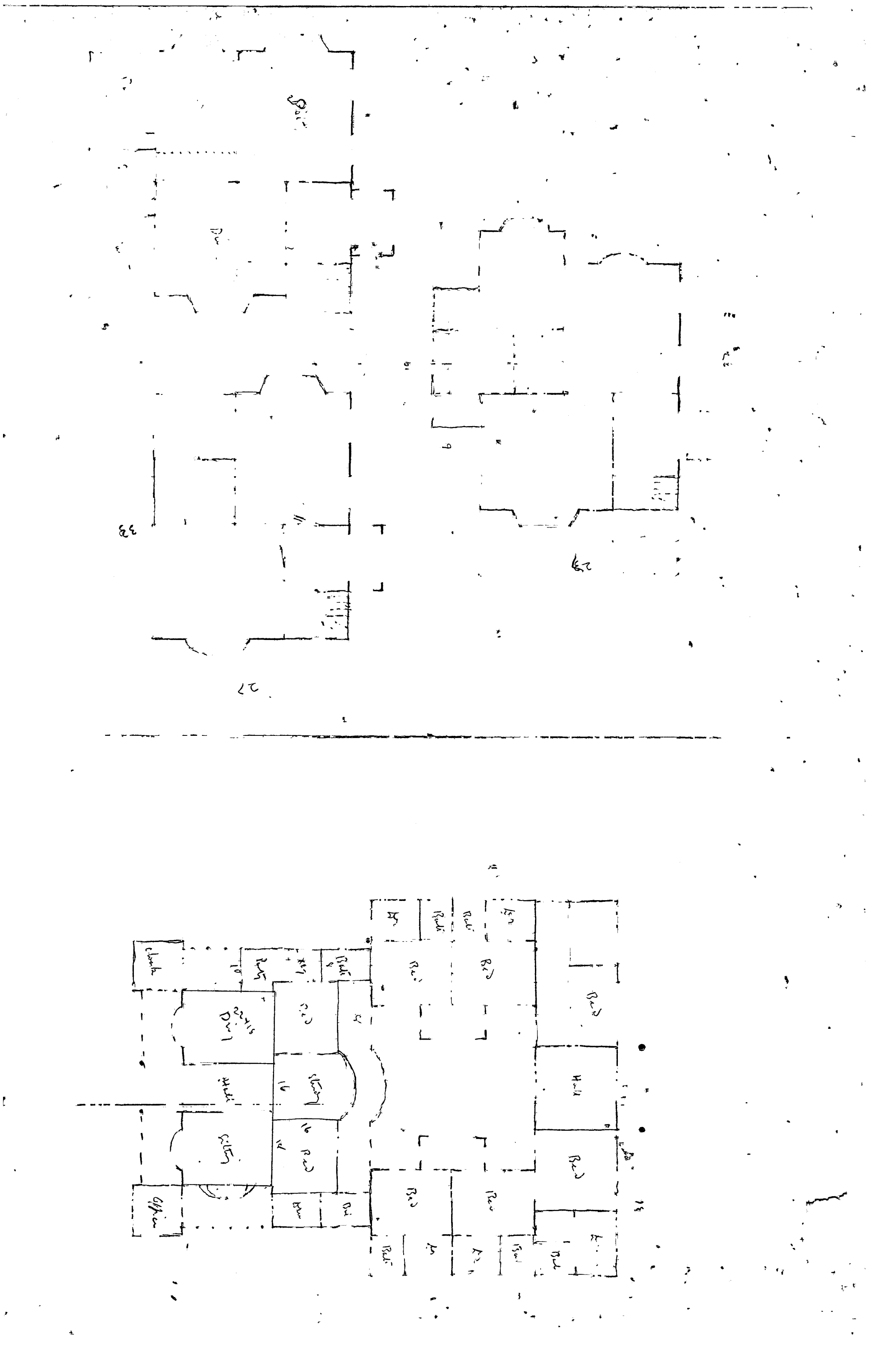

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Plans prepared by
Rajinder Singh.

1/10/24

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